

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP00/08435 filed August 30, 2000**

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A2 The present invention relates, in general, to orally administered sun protection preparations and more particularly to a mixture of β -carotene, lutein and lycopene.--

At page 4, line 6 thereof, please insert the following new section heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

A3 At page 12, between lines 1 and 2, please add the following new paragraph:

A4 --What is claimed is:--.

On a separate, new page 14, please add the following new section heading and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure: ✓

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods of improving the sun protection factor of human skin and methods of inhibiting the aging of human skin via the oral administration of a composition comprising (a) β -carotene, (b) lutein and (c) lycopene, in a ratio by weight (a):(b):(c) of from 1:0.5:0.5 to 1:1.5:1.5 are described.--

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 8-17, as follows:

A5 --8. (New) A method of improving the sun protection factor of human skin, the method comprising:

- (i) providing a composition comprising (a) β -carotene, (b) lutein and (c) lycopene, in a ratio by weight (a):(b):(c) of from 1:0.5:0.5 to 1:1.5:1.5; and
- (ii) orally administering the composition to a human.--